

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE August 9, 2024

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **August 14, 2024 Agenda Item – 24-2139 – Design Award for the Dallas Police Regional Law Enforcement Training Center**

The August 14, 2024, City Council agenda is anticipated to include consideration of the design award for the Dallas Police Department Regional Law Enforcement Training Center.

## Background

The Dallas Police Department (DPD) is a premier law enforcement agency and nationally recognized for its policing strategies. Since 1990, new recruits and continuing education for officers has taken place at 5310 Red Bird Center Drive. Meant to be a temporary space, this remains our current training facility and is lacking in technological advancements, sophisticated equipment, and the space needed for a growing city police department.

In 2012, DPD expanded the operations by leasing another 27,067 square feet at 5610 Redbird Center Drive to house the in-service training programs. The current cost of both leases is approximately \$1 million per year.

A summary of issues and challenges related to the current training academy were provided to the [Public Safety Committee in June 2021](#) in a previous memo available here. A prior [update was also provided to City Council in October 2022](#) and during and following the legislative session.

Highlights regarding the new regional law enforcement training facility are:

- The new academy will support the whole officer including mental and physical wellness and will support the Department's goals in recruitment and retention of officers.
- Working with Dallas Police Department to design a custom training and educational facility that includes classrooms, proposed indoor firing range, reality-based training space, and expansive gym space, common areas and running trails for use by recruits and in-service officers.
- This new collaborative environment will not only make agencies across our region stronger and more effective, but also will position the Dallas Police Department as a national leader in innovative and evidenced-based policing strategies.

The Public Safety Committee was briefed in October 2021 and October 2022. The Dallas legislative delegation secured funding for the new facility during this past legislative session. The voter-approved bond monies which included \$50-million in funding for the

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Dallas Police Department Regional Law Enforcement Training Center, while community fundraising is under way.

### **City Council Consideration**


Following the City and State two-step procurement method for contracting professional services, on August 14<sup>th</sup> 2024, Staff is bringing a council resolution for City Council' s consideration to award the design contract for the Regional Law Enforcement Training Center.

Imperative to the training center will be meeting the needs of DPD, ensuring health, wellness, and resiliency are part of the design process. The training center will include academics focused on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing as led by Dallas Police Chief Eddie Garcia that include, Multiculturalism, Spanish, and courses such as Procedural Justice and Implicit Bias that are taught by the University of North Texas at Dallas (UNTD) We will continue to inform the philanthropic community on the importance of the project.

In the weeks and months ahead, we will continue to engage community and legislative leadership working with the Office of Government Affairs.

Should you have any questions, please reach out to me at [Jennifer.Nicewander@dallas.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Nicewander@dallas.gov) or Deputy Chief Israel Herrera at [Israel.Herrera@dallaspolice.gov](mailto:Israel.Herrera@dallaspolice.gov).

Service First, Now!

  
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